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July 15, 1904 1432

Report from Kobe—Bacteriological examination of plague case from steamship Korea.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Fowler reports, June 4, as follows:

On the 4th instant, at the request of Mr. W. W. Campbell, agent of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, I went to the quarantine establishment of this port. There, by the courtesy of the chief quarantine doctor, I examined four microscopic slides, viz, two of the sputum, one made from the inflamed axillary gland and one from the blood of the Chinese passenger ex steamship *Korea*. These specimens were made while he was living. In all four slides there were numerous plague bacilli.

Also two cultures in test tubes, taken from the glands. On agar there appeared the usual grayish white growth, and again in glycerin agar the same appearance was presented. Seven test tubes were then

under observation.

Subcutaneous inoculation was made on 7 white mice on the first day, and they all died in two days; while to-day I saw 2 white mice that were inoculated the day before. One was sitting with ruffled fur in the corner of its cage in a dying condition; the other was not so badly affected.

This was evidently a case of pestis siderans, disease proving rapidly fatal, death having occurred in 18 to 20 hours from the onset of the symptoms, and before there was time for the development of the various bubos. Lowson says that these cases are pneumonic principally. (See Patrick Manson on Tropical Diseases, page 159.)

KOREA.

Report from Seoul—Cholera reported at Antung, Manchuria.

The following is received from American Minister Allen, under date of July 7, 1904: An American missionary surgeon, Wiju district, telegraphs cholera is definitely reported to have crossed Manchuria to Antung.

MEXICO.

Reports from Progreso and Merida—Inspection of vessels—Yellow fever in Merida—Health commission appointed.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Harrison reports as follows: Week ended June 25, 1904: Estimated population, 8,000; quarantinable diseases, none; deaths from other causes as follows: Gastro-enteric fever, 6;

malarial fever, 2, and pellagra 1; total, 9.

The sanitary condition of town and surrounding country is only fairly good, but is somewhat improved by recent rains, which have carried off much of the surface filth, laid the dust, and replenished the supply of drinking water. Official reports show continuance of yellow fever in Merida, the number of cases of that disease in the lazaretto ranging daily from 2 to 8.

A recently appointed health commission is at work endeavoring to enforce measures for destruction of mosquitoes and to effect general improvement in the sanitary condition of both Merida and Progreso.